WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of modulating an inflammatory response in a mammal, the method comprising administering to the mammal a compound that inhibits binding of a core 2 oligosaccharide to a receptor for the core 2 oligosaccharide.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the method does not significantly alter lymphocyte trafficking.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the compound inhibits the enzymatic synthesis of the core 2 oligosaccharide.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the compound inhibits the enzymatic synthesis of a minimal core 2 oligosaccharide.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the compound inhibits the attachment to the minimal core 2 oligosaccharide of one or more saccharide residues, which residues are attached to the minimal core 2 oligosaccharide in the absence of the compound.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the compound inhibits the amount of core 2 GlcNAc transferase activity in the mammal.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the compound inhibits expression of a gene that encodes the core 2 GlcNAc transferase.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the compound inhibits enzymatic activity of the core 2 GlcNAc transferase.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the receptor is P-selectin.

10. A method of modulating binding of a first myeloid cell to an endothelial cell or to a second myeloid cell, the method comprising contacting the first myeloid cell with a compound that binds to, or modulates the synthesis of, a core 2 oligosaccharide.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the first myeloid cell is present in a mammal.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the first myeloid cell is selected from the group consisting of neutrophils, eosinophils, monocytes, and granulocytes.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the binding of the first myeloid cell to the endothelial cell or to the second myeloid cell is inhibited.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the compound inhibits synthesis of a core 2 oligosaccharide on the surface of the myeloid cell.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the core 2 oligosaccharide is a minimal core 2 oligosaccharide.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the core 2 oligosaccharide is a modified core 2 oligosaccharide.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the compound inhibits core 2 GlcNAc transferase activity.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the compound inhibits expression of a gene that encodes the core 2 GlcNAc transferase.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide hybridizes to an mRNA that encodes the core 2 GlcNAc transferase to form an mRNA:antisense oligonucleotide hybrid.

21. The method of claim 10, wherein the binding of the myeloid cell to the endothelial cell or to the second myeloid cell is enhanced.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the compound comprises a polynucleotide which encodes a core 2 GlcNAc transferase.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the compound comprises a core 2 GlcNAc transferase polypeptide or active fragment thereof.

24. A method of identifying a compound for use in inhibiting an inflammatory response in a mammal, the method comprising:

a) providing an assay mixture which comprises: a core 2 GlcNAc transferase, a potential inflammation modulator, a UDP-GlcNAc sugar donor, an acceptor saccharide, and additional reagents required for core 2 GlcNAc transferase activity;

b) incubating the assay mixture under conditions in which the core 2 GlcNAc transferase is active; and

c) determining whether the amount of GlcNAc transferred to the acceptor saccharide is increased or decreased in comparison to an assay which lacks the potential inflammation modulator;

wherein a potential inflammation modulator which results in a decrease in GlcNAc transfer to the acceptor saccharide is suitable for inhibiting an inflammatory response.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the acceptor saccharide comprises a structure Galβ1→3GalNAc-.

26. A method of identifying compounds for inhibiting an inflammatory response in a mammal, the method comprising:

providing a cell which comprises a polynucleotide that encodes a core 2 GlcNAc transferase, an acceptor saccharide for the core 2 GlcNAc transferase, and UDP-GlcNAc;

contacting the cell with a potential inflammation modulator and incubating the cell under conditions in which the core 2 GlcNAc transferase is normally expressed; and

determining whether the core 2 oligosaccharide level is increased or decreased compared to the core 2 oligosaccharide level in the absence of the potential inflammation modulator;

wherein a potential inflammation modulator that causes a decrease in the amount of core 2 oligosaccharide produced is useful for inhibiting an inflammatory response in a mammal.

27. The method of claim **26**, wherein:

the cell further comprises one or more additional glycosyltransferases and corresponding reactants that can add additional saccharide residues to the GlcNAc of a minimal core 2 oligosaccharide to form a modified core 2 oligosaccharide;

and the level of core 2 oligosaccharide is determined by detecting the presence or absence of the modified core 2 oligosaccharide.

28. The method of claim **27**, wherein the presence or absence of the modified core 2 oligosaccharide is detected by determining whether the presence of the potential inflammation modifier results in a decrease in the ability of the cells to bind to a receptor for the modified core 2 oligosaccharide.

29. The method of claim **28**, wherein the modified core 2 oligosaccharide comprises a polylactosamine moiety and the receptor is galectin-1.

30. The method of claim **28**, wherein the modified core 2 oligosaccharide comprises a SLe^x moiety.

31. The method of claim **30**, wherein the receptor is a P selectin.

32. A method for identifying lead compounds that inhibit inflammation in a mammal but do not inhibit lymphocyte-mediated immune responses, the method comprising

contacting a library of potential inflammation modulator compounds with a core 2 oligosaccharide and identifying potential inflammation modulator compounds that bind to the core 2 oligosaccharide, wherein a compound that binds to the core 2 oligosaccharide is a lead compound suitable for further testing as an inflammation modulator.

33. The method of claim **32**, wherein the method further comprises testing the lead compound by determining whether the lead compound inhibits binding of a core 2 oligosaccharide with a corresponding receptor.

34. The method of claim **33**, wherein the receptor is P-selectin.

35. The method of claim **32**, wherein the method further comprises testing the lead compound by administering the compound to a test animal and determining whether an inflammatory response by the test animal to a stimulus is reduced or prevented by administration of the compound.